

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing method performed by an image processing system, the method comprising:

picking up an image, at an image acquiring device in the image processing system, through sampling in a predetermined sampling pattern to acquire an image signal representing the image, and

appending sampling information, by the image acquiring device, which concerns the predetermined sampling pattern, to the image signal, which has been acquired,

performing different sharpness enhancement processing at a sharpness enhancement processor on the image signal in accordance with the sampling information to obtain a processed image signal.

2. (Original) The image processing method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the different sharpness enhancement processing is a processing in accordance with frequency characteristics of the image signal, which has been acquired, due to the sampling pattern.

3. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
means for picking up an image through sampling in a predetermined sampling pattern to acquire an image signal representing the image, and

sampling information appending means for appending sampling information, which concerns the predetermined sampling pattern, to the image signal, which has been acquired,

processing means for performing different sharpness enhancement processing on the image signal in accordance with the sampling information to obtain a processed image signal.

4. (Original) The image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 3 wherein the processing means performs, as the different sharpness enhancement processing, a processing in

accordance with frequency characteristics of the image signal, which has been acquired, due to the sampling pattern.

5. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium, storing a set of instructions executed by a processor to perform an image processing method, , the image processing method comprising:

picking up an image through sampling in a predetermined sampling pattern to acquire an image signal representing the image, and

appending sampling information, which concerns the predetermined sampling,

performing different sharpness enhancement processing on the image signal in accordance with the sampling information to obtain a processed image signal.

6. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium as defined in Claim 5, wherein the procedure for obtaining the processed image signal is a procedure for performing, as the different sharpness enhancement processing, a processing in accordance with frequency characteristics of the image signal, which has been acquired, due to the sampling pattern.

7. (Currently Amended) An image transforming method, comprising the step of:
performing transforming processing, by a processor, on a square sampling image signal, which has been obtained from a checkered sampling image signal by performing a predetermined interpolating operation process on the checkered sampling image signal to form signal values corresponding to empty pixel positions in an array of pixels represented by image signal components of the checkered sampling image signal,

wherein the transforming processing is a processing for performing an interpolating operation process, which is different from the predetermined interpolating operation process, on the square sampling image signal to form new signal values corresponding to the empty pixel positions, in lieu of the signal values having been formed with the predetermined interpolating operation process, and thereby to obtain a new square sampling image signal.

8. (Original) The image transforming method as defined in Claim 7, wherein the different interpolating operation process is an interpolating operation process, in which a filtering process is performed on signal values of the square sampling image signal other than the signal values having been formed with the predetermined interpolating operation process, the filtering process being performed with an interpolation filter having an array of filter factors obtained by rotating an array of filter factors in a $N \times M$ high order interpolation filter, where at least either one of N and M is at least 3, by an angle of 45 degrees.

9. (Original) The image transforming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the filter factors are filter factors of a 4×4 interpolation filter for performing a cubic spline interpolating operation process.

10. (Original) The image transforming method as defined in Claim 7, wherein sampling information, which represents whether an image represented by an original image signal has been picked up through checkered sampling or square sampling, is appended to the square sampling image signal, and

the processing for performing the different interpolating operation process to obtain the new square sampling image signal is performed only in cases where it has been discriminated in accordance with the sampling information that the image has been picked up through the checkered sampling.

11. (Currently amended) An image transforming apparatus, comprising transforming processing meansprocessor for performing transforming processing on a square sampling image signal, which has been obtained from a checkered sampling image signal by performing a predetermined interpolating operation process on the checkered sampling image signal to form signal values corresponding to empty pixel positions in an array of pixels represented by image signal components of the checkered sampling image signal,

wherein the transforming processing meansprocessor performs the transforming processing for performing an interpolating operation process, which is different from the

predetermined interpolating operation process, on the square sampling image signal to form new signal values corresponding to the empty pixel positions, in lieu of the signal values having been formed with the predetermined interpolating operation process, and thereby to obtain a new square sampling image signal.

12. (Currently Amended) The image transforming apparatus as defined in Claim 11, wherein the different interpolating operation process performed by the transforming ~~processing meansprocessor~~ is an interpolating operation process, in which a filtering process is performed on signal values of the square sampling image signal other than the signal values having been formed with the predetermined interpolating operation process, the filtering process being performed with an interpolation filter having an array of filter factors obtained by rotating an array of filter factors in a $N \times M$ high order interpolation filter, where at least either one of N and M is at least 3, by an angle of 45 degrees.

13. (Original) The image transforming apparatus as defined in Claim 12, wherein the filter factors are filter factors of a 4×4 interpolation filter for performing a cubic spline interpolating operation process.

14. (Currently Amended) The image transforming apparatus as defined in Claim 11, wherein sampling information, which represents whether an image represented by an original image signal has been picked up through checkered sampling or square sampling, is appended to the square sampling image signal,

the apparatus further comprises discrimination means for discriminating in accordance with the sampling information whether the image has been picked up through the checkered sampling or not, and

the transforming ~~processing meansprocessor~~ performs the processing for performing the different interpolating operation process to obtain the new square sampling image signal only in cases where it has been discriminated by the discrimination means that the image has been picked up through the checkered sampling.

15. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium, storing a set of instructions, executed by a processor, to perform an image transforming method, the image transforming method comprising performing transforming processing on a square sampling image signal, which has been obtained from a checkered sampling image signal by performing a predetermined interpolating operation process on the checkered sampling image signal to form signal values corresponding to empty pixel positions in an array of pixels represented by image signal components of the checkered sampling image signal,

wherein processing for performing an interpolating operation process is performed, which is different from the predetermined interpolating operation process, on the square sampling image signal to form new signal values corresponding to the empty pixel positions, in lieu of the signal values having been formed with the predetermined interpolating operation process, and thereby to obtain a new square sampling image signal.

16. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium as defined in Claim 15, wherein the different interpolating operation process is an interpolating operation process, in which a filtering process is performed on signal values of the square sampling image signal other than the signal values having been formed with the predetermined interpolating operation process, the filtering process being performed with an interpolation filter having an array of filter factors obtained by rotating an array of filter factors in a $N \times M$ high order interpolation filter, where at least either one of N and M is at least 3, by an angle of 45 degrees.

17. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium as defined in Claim 16, wherein the filter factors are filter factors of a 4×4 interpolation filter for performing a cubic spline interpolating operation process.

18. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium as defined in Claim 15, wherein sampling information, which represents whether an image represented by an original image signal has been picked up through checkered sampling or square sampling, is appended to the square sampling image signal,

wherein whether the image has been picked up through the checkered sampling or not is discriminated in accordance with the sampling information, and

wherein the different interpolating operation process is performed to obtain the new square sampling image signal only in cases where it has been discriminated by the procedure for the discrimination that the image has been picked up through the checkered sampling.

19. (Currently Amended) An image transforming method, comprising the step of transforming by a processor a checkered sampling image signal into a square sampling image signal,

wherein the checkered sampling image signal is transformed into the square sampling image signal by performing a filtering process on the checkered sampling image signal and with an interpolation filter, which has an array of filter factors obtained by rotating an array of filter factors in a $N \times M$ high order interpolation filter, where at least either one of N and M is at least 3, by an angle of 45 degrees.

20. (Original) The image transforming method as defined in Claim 19, wherein the filter factors are filter factors of a 4×4 interpolation filter for performing a cubic spline interpolating operation process.

21. (Currently Amended) An image transforming apparatus, comprising ~~transforming means~~ a processor for transforming a checkered sampling image signal into a square sampling image signal,

wherein the ~~transforming-means~~ processor transforms the checkered sampling image signal into the square sampling image signal by performing a filtering process on the checkered sampling image signal and with an interpolation filter, which has an array of filter factors obtained by rotating an array of filter factors in a $N \times M$ high order interpolation filter, where at least either one of N and M is at least 3, by an angle of 45 degrees.

22. (Original) The image transforming apparatus as defined in Claim 21, wherein the filter factors are filter factors of a 4×4 interpolation filter for performing a cubic spline interpolating operation process.

23. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium, storing a set of instructions, executed by a processor, for performing an image transforming method, the image transforming method comprising transforming a checkered sampling image signal into a square sampling image signal,

wherein transforming the checkered sampling image signal into the square sampling image signal includes performing a filtering process on the checkered sampling image signal and with an interpolation filter, which has an array of filter factors obtained by rotating an array of filter factors in a $N \times M$ high order interpolation filter, where at least either one of N and M is at least 3, by an angle of 45 degrees.

24. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium as defined in Claim 23, wherein the filter factors are filter factors of a 4×4 interpolation filter for performing a cubic spline interpolating operation process.